



News Release

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SBA Names 2007 North Carolina Women in Business Champion of The Year

CHARLOTTE - Sandra "Sandie" Ridings, President/CEO of Training Matters, Inc. (TMI) in Charlotte, NC has been named the Small Business Administration's 2007 North Carolina Women in Business Champion of the Year for her commitment to the advancement of women's business ownership. She was nominated by Linda Chapman-Capron, Principal of The Charlotte Outdoor Adventure Center, Inc.

The award recognizes Ridings for her active support for legislative or regulatory action designed to help small businesses, her efforts to increase business and financial opportunities for women, her volunteer efforts to strengthen the role of women business owners within the community and other accomplishments demonstrating effectiveness in improving the environment for women in business.

"It is an honor to be recognized with this prestigious award," said Ridings. "I am fortunate to have so many wonderful women role models in my life who have taken the time to offer advice, mentorship, and life lessons during my career. If I can provide encouragement and mentorship to other women, the circle is complete."

Ridings has served in a variety of local, regional and national leadership positions for the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO). She served as Charlotte NAWBO president and on various boards where she has continued to strengthen the business education, networking, mentorship, exposure and resources for local women business owners.

She has met with City and County officials, Senators, and House leaders in our Nation's Capital in efforts to support Small Business and Women Owned Businesses. She has also been active in Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP). In 2004, Sandie Ridings met President George W. Bush as the representative of Women and Small Business Owners.

TMI is a training and development firm that serves mid-sized businesses and Fortune 500 companies. TMI offers specialized services including Business Education Training Programs, Team Performance Enlightenment, and Strategic Planning Sessions/Retreats.

Ridings has worked extensively with such community organizations as: Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, The Entrepreneurship Institute, United States Small Business Leaders, Business Innovation & Growth Council, City of Charlotte, Women Impacting Public Policy, North Carolina National Leader, Greater Charlotte Hospitality and Tourism Alliance, Charlotte Convention and Visitor's Bureau

As president of NAWBO Charlotte, for three years championed the "Golf Classic" which raised thousands of dollars to support area women through the NAWBO scholarship program, Mobile Health Outreach Mammography Clinic and Summit House of Charlotte.